

PRESS RELEASE

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**DECLARATION BY THE PRESIDENCY
ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
ON MISSILE TEST UNDERTAKEN BY THE DPRK**

The missile test undertaken by North Korea on 31 August creates further tensions in a region that is already facing a precarious security environment. The test reportedly involved sovereign airspace of a third state and international waters and was undertaken without prior notification, thereby causing unacceptable risks for the populations and activities in the region. Moreover, the test runs counter to international non-proliferation efforts.

The European Union has been following developments in the Korean Peninsula with great attention, is a significant contributor to KEDO and is one of the major contributors to the humanitarian assistance programmes in the Democratic Peoples' Republic of Korea. We are deeply concerned that a country which for several years has required and received from the international community extensive humanitarian assistance chooses to put its own scarce resources into developing an offensive weapons system.

The European Union expresses its grave concern at this test which undermines the efforts to enhance peace and security on the Korean Peninsula. It calls upon North Korea to refrain from any further testing and to exercise utmost restraint in its missile development and export activities. The European Union urges North Korea to join international non-proliferation efforts.

The Associated countries of Central and Eastern Europe, the Associated country Cyprus and the EFTA countries members of the European Economic Area align themselves with this declaration.

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